



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

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For Immediate Release

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NORTHEAST WISCONSIN CONSORTIUM RECEIVES FAMILY CARE PLANNING GRANT

Madison – The Department of Health and Family Services has awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Northeast Wisconsin Long Term Care Consortium to help create a care management organization that will expand Family Care into Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca and Winnebago counties. The consortium also includes Menominee, Oneida and Stockbridge tribes.

Each county currently operates a community long-term care system and some also operate nursing home, public health and aging programs. The consortium will use the grant money to identify and develop managed care partners through the community to expand the Family Care program.

In January, Governor Doyle set a goal of expanding the innovative Family Care program statewide within five years and eliminating all wait lists for long-term care services. Family Care allows seniors and people with disabilities the choice to receive long-term care services in their own homes and communities. Family Care provides an entitlement to long-term care, using Medicaid dollars flexibly and not just earmarking dollars for nursing home care.

“Seniors and people with disabilities overwhelmingly prefer home and community care options and shouldn’t be forced into nursing homes if that’s not what they want or need,” said Secretary Helene Nelson. “Family Care has proven people can get the long-term care they need and prefer, and that this can save money for taxpayers by helping people stay healthy, happy and independent.”

Currently, the consortium supports more than 5,225 people in community based long term care programs, but another 1,721 are on waitlists. There are more than 4,905 people in nursing homes.

Governor Doyle and Secretary Nelson have awarded \$1.4 million in grants to communities around the state to lay the groundwork for expanding Family Care statewide and eliminating waiting lists for community-based long term care. While Wisconsin has been a national leader in offering community-based alternatives to nursing home care, about 11,500 people are on waitlists for community care statewide.

Family Care currently operates in Fond du Lac, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Portage and Richland counties. An independent assessment found that Family Care saved an average of \$452 per person, per month in total Medical Assistance expenditures in the four non-Milwaukee counties during 2003 and 2004. Family Care also saved money in Milwaukee County.

For more information about Family Care, go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/>

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